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India's area of wheat farms is now about two-thirds as large as that of the United States. The wheat is still thrashed by being trodden out by bullocks and buffaloes.

Two items in the budget of the bank at Monte Carlo, for the year ending October 31: "Payments to ruined gamblers, one hundred thousand francs; for the prevention of suicides, one hundred thousand francs." Here is a sermon, "writ large," on the question, Does gambling pay?

The Fremdenblatt, of Vienna, which is the organ of the Austrian Foreign Office, approves the occupation of the Kia-Chou Bay and Port Arthur, and says that one result of the opening up of China will be the stoppage of the emigration which is so disquieting to Australia and the United States.

The Japanese do not intend to rest slyly under the classification of the Colonial Government of New South Wales, which recently decided to include the Japanese in the Chinese Restriction act, denoting them "as other colored people." The Japanese Consul at Sydney has protested against the proposed legislation.

In South Germany finishing schools, to train young women in presiding over a home, have been recently developed. The girls admitted must have an ordinary grammar-school education. Not over twenty boarders are taken in each school. These girls are obliged to take care of their rooms, and every week four are selected who must manage the household for the week, buying supplies and attending to all the details of cooking and other work, including sewing and making of garments. Under proper supervision they ought to make girls good housekeepers, and it certainly ought to have a tendency to keep down the divorcees in Germany.

In the trial of a case at Newark, N. J. Vice Chancellor Pitney, one of the most erudite of New Jersey's judges, gave an interesting opinion on the effect of noises on human life. The case was a protest against the terrific hammering in a copper boiler shop. The complainants were property owners of the neighborhood. Said the Vice Chancellor: "Noises tend to shorten life. It is a well-settled fact that all other things being equal, people living in crowded streets and subjected to incessant, often loud, noises, do not live as long as those whose surroundings are comparatively quiet." The rule is that which renders life uncomfortable should be stopped. In considering the effect of noise, we should apply it to ordinary, everyday people, such as the complainants in this case, not people brought up in a palace, unused to noise of any kind, or people who live in a pigsty, caring nothing for noise of any sort. The Court must be judge and jury in this case, and the Court has been in a boiler shop and knows what it is. One man holds a small hammer inside the boiler, while another man hammers on the outside." Although the case was continued, the Court intimated that people involuntarily subjected to such hurt-producing noises had redress at the hands of the law.

Says the Boston Journal: "It is calculated by military students that fully one-half of the 100,000 men who died in battle on the Union side from 1861 to 1865 were a bloody sacrifice to the North's fatuous neglect of the science of arms and of the most ordinary military precautions. If that is true, then one-half of the wounded and disabled veterans whose names are now borne on the pension lists owe their disability to the fact that their country, in its long peace, had forgotten the solemn admonition of Washington and had allowed the great mass of its youth to become absolutely ignorant of the use of weapons and of martial exercises. On this basis of reasoning the national folly of the years before the Civil War is now costing the National Government about \$70,000,000 a year, or more than twice the cost of its present military establishment. We shall never have a Civil War again. Our only possible conflict is with a foreign enemy, and in all probability we shall never have that if we maintain an adequate navy and complete our new and admirable system of coast defenses. Seventy million dollars would finish these defenses and arm them. It would build a fleet of fifteen first-class battleships and make our navy the second most powerful on the planet. The men who believe in a policy of reasonable military preparedness for the United States can justify their position not only by an appeal to the national honor, but by the broadest considerations of genuine economy."

WHY AND WHEREFORE.

I know not whence I came, I know not whither I go, But the fact stands clear That I am here In this world of pleasure and woe, And out of the mist and work Another truth shines plain— It is in my power Each day and hour To add to its joy or its pain.

STRIKING A MATCH.

By JULIAN FRENCH.



ELL, Miss Hildeburn, I must say I'm real sorry you and Mr. Sangster have fallen out. "Oh, Mrs. Collins, indeed you are mistaken. There has been no falling out between Mr. Sangster and myself. Indeed, I am not on sufficiently sociable terms with any of your gentleman boarders to have a quarrel." Saying which, Lucy Hildeburn, a slight, delicate-looking girl of eighteen, was asked out of the room with even more than her wonted dignity of manner and carriage. "Nevertheless, notwithstanding," pursued Mrs. Collins, resuming her ironing, which had been interrupted by the young lady's entrance, "I do believe there's been a misunderstanding between the two, and a real pity it is, for he did admire her amazingly. He couldn't conceal it. And 'twould be a good thing for her, poor child! Only they seldom know what is good for 'em, these young things, and she's a-letting her pride stand in the way of her happiness now."

"Pride, indeed!" sneered Miss Jane Humphries, Mrs. Collins' niece and assistant, a tall, red-haired, stylishly-dressed dandy of five-and-thirty. "I'd like to know what right a girl who earns her livin' by givin' music lessons at fifty cents an hour has to be proud; and as for Mr. Sangster, I don't believe he ever had a serious thought about her. The idea of an intellectual young man like him fancying a girl simple enough to be afraid of ghosts. He was only amusin' himself, playin' on her vanity, and she's found that out and is just poot'n on airs now to try and 'pull the wool over her eyes,' as the sayin' is."

"La, Jane, I don't know where you eyes kin' be, if you didn't see how fairly wrapped up in her he was about two weeks ago; and as to her havin' no right to be proud, 'cause she's poor, I believe it's for that very reason she is proud, poor little heart! He's in real good business, Mr. Sangster," Mrs. Collins presently added, in a musing tone, "and is the best person to take care of that poor little strugglin' sensitive orphan girl. I'll see if I can't mend matters between 'em."

"You'd better be mindin' your own business, I think, Aunt Martha," said Miss Jane, with a spiteful laugh and a sidelong glance at her own highly-frizzed and powdered reflection in the little square of looking-glass that hung against the kitchen wall. "Never you mind, Jane," persisted warm-hearted Mrs. Collins; "I'll manage it some way. You say she's afraid of ghosts, poor lamb!"

"Well, but you might she lay awake revolv'n different schemes for the reconciliation of her two favorite boarders. The following evening the kind-hearted landlady tapped at the door of the scantily-furnished fourth-story room occupied by Lucy Hildeburn, and from which now proceeded a melancholy strain.

"Studying your piano of nights, again?" queried Mrs. Collins, reproachfully, when the girl opened the door. "Yes," replied Lucy, whose voice had a tearful infection, despite her efforts to conceal it, and whose eyes were suspiciously red. "I am very busy just now, and must put all the time I can to study."

The trouble, I think, with us all Is the lack of a high conceit; If each man thought He was sent to the spot To make it a bit more sweet, How soon we could gladden the world, How easily right all wrong, If nobody shirked And each one worked To help his fellows along.

Then Mr. Sangster knelt down beside her, and a confident interchange of explanations of various kinds ensued. The result was, that at the expiration of a half-hour, Mr. Sangster took Lucy in his arms and kissing the tear-stained face, murmured: "God bless you for this promise, my own darling! And, with His help, I trust these are the last tears I will cause you to shed."

When Mrs. Collins came home, two hours later, the house was very quiet, the furnace in good order, and neither Mr. Sangster nor Miss Hildeburn visible. But the following day Lucy confided to her secret, and Mr. Sangster absented himself mysteriously for about three weeks. After that, Miss Hildeburn also disappeared. "Gone to visit her aunt at Swathmore," Mrs. Collins explained to the other boarders.

But a fortnight later the mail carrier brought some wedding cards to the house. "It was all brought about through the furnace," said Mrs. Collins, with a gleeful chuckle. "But Miss Jane was infinitely disgusted." Saturday Night.

How Stanton Defied Lincoln. The application of a man who wanted to be chaplain in the army during Mr. Lincoln's Administration was recently found. Attached to it are a number of endorsements which are not only interesting in themselves, but aid in disclosing the characters of the two men whose influence largely molded the policy of the Government in those turbulent times. The endorsements read as follows: "Dear Stanton—Appoint this man chaplain in the army." A. LINCOLN.

An Island of Volcanic Make. The British North Borneo Herald describes the new island which was recently thrown up by volcanic action on the coast between Mempakoi and Lumbidan. The island, which is about forty-five feet high, 250 yards long and 150 yards broad, has a very peculiar appearance. It is chiefly an upheaval of the sea bottom, but at the highest point presents entirely different features. Here the surface through from below and a mud crater formed, which had evidently been forcibly squeezed up through a circular hole in the bedrock further down.

Tamping Done by Air. A force of 200,000 men is required to keep the beds of the railroads in order, and the expense of the work is \$70,000,000 a year. But an inventor has come forward who proposes to do the work with compressed air, and promises greater expedition and a saving of more than \$10,000,000 annually. The machine consists of a Root blower driven at the rate of perhaps 800 revolutions a minute. It is set on top of one rail, and has two small wheels on which it can be trundled along the rail like a wheelbarrow. When it is to be used a lever clips it fast to the rail. Attached to it is a hose twelve feet long, ending in a metal feeder for the broken concrete, which has a hopper at the top, where the stone or other suitable ballasting material is shoveled in, and a bent end at the bottom, which is put under the ties to direct the stream of filling. In using it none of the ballast between the ties need be removed. A shaftful is removed at one end of the raised tie until the bent end of the hopper tube can be poked under, and then the filling material is blown in and packed tight by the machine.

Roller Boats. The curious spectacle of a marine craft propelled by enormous air-tight, disc-shaped hollow wheels suggests a radical departure in the methods of boat-building. That the experiment was a failure was the natural consequence of the principles on which the craft was constructed. All of the machinery and passenger accommodations rested on a platform supported by these air-tight wheels arranged in rows on either side. The general effect was that of a huge wagon, the box of which rested on the water. One of the causes of the failure of this venture was that the wheels took up sufficient water to handicap them seriously. An attempt was made to counteract this by increasing the power, but this added to the weight of the machinery and did not work successfully. A device to scrape the water from the wheels was equally futile, and as it stands now the roller boat has scored a most brilliant failure.

THE MERRY SIDE OF LIFE.

STORIES THAT ARE TOLD BY THE FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

When a Girl's Grown Up—A Solution of the Problem—Not a Hopeless Case—His Line—Putting on Her Wraps—A Fine Recommendation, etc., etc. She has ceased to believe there's a man in the moon. But she can't get out of her head The old idea that there is one In hiding under the bed. Chicago News.

A Solution of the Problem. "No, Willie, dear," said mamma, "no more cake to-night. Don't you know you cannot sleep well on a full stomach?" "Well," replied Willie, "I can sleep on my back." Putting on Her Wraps. She (smiling)—"Your face is too near to mine." He—"It's two inches away, and that's as bad as a thousand miles." She (pouting)—"It wouldn't be for some men." Harlem Life.

Not a Hopeless Case. He—"I shall never marry until I meet a woman who is my exact opposite, mentally." She—"Why don't you ask Miss Floyd?" She is considered one of the most intellectual girls in town. Truth.

His Line. Miss Wabash—"Your friend who has just left us is something of a pessimist, I imagine." Miss Halsted—"Indeed, he isn't. He's an optimist, and he has the cream of the West Side trade." Chicago News.

Her Assumed Name. Zim (in deep whisper)—"There goes a woman who is living under an assumed name." Zam (disgustedly)—"Rats! Why, that's Mrs. Brown!" Zim—"I know it." Her name was Jones before she was married. Marvelous Growth. "Is your town booming out there in the mining district, Slicks?" "I should say so. It's more wonderful than magic. I pitched my tent in a hole in the ground one evening and when I waked up I was in the cellar of a union depot." Detroit Free Press.

There Were Others. Mamie (singing)—"My mother was a lady." Aggie (interrupting)—"Aw, shut up! so wuz me fadder." Mamie—"Wotcher givin' me?" Aggie—"Dat's dead right—he wuz de bearded lady in a dime mussee for 'ree years." Puck.

A Fine Recommendation. Her Father—"How do you know you love my daughter? You've only been acquainted a few weeks." The Suitor—"That is true; but I see that you've just negotiated a loan of \$1,000,000. A man who can do that is the kind of person I want for a father-in-law." Chicago News.

To Please Little Tommy. Old Lady—"You said the train that I should take leaves at 10.30, didn't you?" Booking-Clerk—"Yes, madam; and I think I've told you that about ten times already." Old Lady—"Yes, 'I know you have; but my little nephew says he likes to hear you talk." Tit-Bits.

Papa Gives Way. Mamma (to Tiny Tot, who wants to deprive her younger brother of a delicacy they have both set their hearts on)—"No, darling, you must let baby have it now, and when he grows up, and you are a young lady, he'll have to give way to you." Tiny Tot—"Is that why papa always has to do as you want, mamma?" Puck.

The Newest "Safe." Mr. Harl M. Flatto—"And this is my music room!" Visitor (in amazement)—"Music room! Why—er—isn't it—er—rather peculiar?" Mr. Harl M. Flatto—"Yes; slightly. You see, when I close the door it is hermetically sealed. When the amateur musicians in the neighboring flats commence hammering on their pianos and blowing on their cornets I retire here, shutting the door and am safe." Puck.

A Paris. Boston Conductor—"Fare, please." Passenger—"What is the fare?" Conductor—"It is the tariff or tax levied by the corporation owning and controlling the charter and franchise of this streetcar line on those persons who avail themselves of the opportunity afforded them by the company to secure more rapid and agreeable transportation than pedal locomotion." Passenger—"How much is the fare?" Conductor—"Five cents, please." Detroit Free Press.

Conversation. "He will come to-night," mused Beryl. With a sigh, she drew back the curtains and gazed out into the darkling dusk; for her father's house was built with a view to convenience, and she could do that. "What shall I say to him?" The horse show was no more; the six-day bicycle race was a thing of the past. She did not understand football. There was nothing left but the weather and currency reform. Detroit Journal.

Candles and Electricity. The estimated total candle power of all the electric lamps used in New York City is placed at 50,000,000.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

In Guy's Hospital, London, the photograph is used to record the speech of epileptic patients from day to day that their progress may be noted by comparison. The cotton seed industry of the South amounts to 4,000,000 tons annually, valued at \$113,000,000. In 1867 there were only four mills in operation; in 1897 there were over 300, with more than \$50,000,000 invested. About 30,000 bales of cotton are booked for shipment to Japan this winter from the single port of Seattle. This is said to be fifty per cent. more in value than the value of all American exports to Japan during the season of 1894-95.

Lundy Island, in the British Channel, has been provided with two new and powerful lights, one at either end of the island. The families of the keepers will no longer be allowed to live at the lighthouses, but will be transferred to the mainland. A German firm, it is reported, has placed upon the market samples of pure indigo, (derived from coal-tar, which promises to supplant the vegetable indigo, as other dyes have been supplanted by the same source. Vegetable indigo is consumed to the extent of \$15,000,000 chiefly derived from India.

Some time ago attention was called to the fact that the Western Union Telegraph Company was using copper wire exclusively on new construction and renewals on its principal lines. The company has recently completed a line of copper wire from New York to San Francisco, the longest heavy copper wire for telegraphy in the world. This wire is strung between San Francisco and Ogden to Omaha along the Union Pacific.

The great vitality of dragon flies is shown by McLaughland, who, having struck at a large Aeschna at rest on a twig, the head was seen to tumble away in an "undecided manner," for a considerable distance. Upon picking up the head he noticed that the insect had been eating a fly at the time. "The manibules continued working as if nothing had happened, and the masticated portions of the fly passed out at the back of the head."

Professor Wolny, of Munich, Germany, has conducted some experiments to ascertain what was the influence earth worms had on vegetation. He found that their presence was extremely favorable, the produce of the several plants being increased as follows: Pease gave twenty-five per cent. more fruit, thirty-five per cent. more stalks, etc.; beans gave sixty-nine per cent. more pease in the pod and forty-seven per cent. more stalks, etc.; while potatoes yielded 136 per cent. more. This favorable effect, says Professor Wolny, is probably due to the ventilation of the earth by the holes dug by the worms.

A Cherokee Romance. The marriage of Richard Malone and Miss Mary Hildreth at Caldwell, Kan., is the culmination of a romantic experience. When the Cherokee strip was opened for settlement on September 18, 1893, Malone and Miss Hildreth, at the report of the signal along the southern Kansas border, on their well-trained horses, made the famous race over the plains together for a home in the Indian lands.

The clinics they desired lay five miles south of Caldwell. They were maintaining a good lead in the mud road, when suddenly the girls of Miss Hildreth's saddle broke. Her escort saw her dilemma, reined in his horse and assisted her. She could go no further, so they staked two claims side by side. They then erected a house on Miss Hildreth's claim just across the line. Malone erected a barn, in which he lived during his enforced residence on his claim. Miss Hildreth occupied the house. Last week they both proved up their claims, and yesterday they were married.—Topeka Journal.

He Had Four Hearts. Henry Tanner, who died at the City Hospital, St. Louis, recently, is said by the physicians in charge to have had four hearts. The cause for this trouble, according to Dr. Sutter, is that at different times three aneurisms had formed, and each of these grew until it formed a compact mass almost equal in size to the heart. These aneurisms (formed in the aorta, the largest artery in the body, and the one which leads from the heart. There they grew, and became, as described, "One true heart and three false ones."

These "false hearts" throbbled and pulsated with the "true heart" and with equal precision, and apparently gave Tanner no trouble. Dr. Sutter says that if he had not succeeded in neuritis these false hearts would have kept on increasing in size until one of them burst. That meant death for Tanner. The remarkable aorta and its four hearts will be preserved at the hospital.—Buffalo (N. Y.) Express.

Longevity of Animals. It is said that the giant tortoise of the Seychelles Islands is the longest lived animal in the world. The known age of one now living is 150 years, and this dates from the time the creature was full grown. How old it was at the time of its capture no one is able to conjecture. A fine specimen has been presented to the Zoological Society of London. It weighs about a quarter of a ton and is an exceedingly lively animal.

Eighty-seven Warships Building. The general disposition to increase naval armaments can be gauged by the fact that eighty-seven warships are being built in Great Britain alone. They aggregate a displacement of 318,612 tons. Of the eighty-seven warships, thirty-four go to foreign governments.

THE MEANEST MAN.

The man who lies is mean, And so is the man who steals; The man who abhors is a sinner, and Should be hung up by the heels; But the meanest and lowest of all the rogues That trample under the sun Is the fellow that takes the credit for Good work some other has done. Cleveland Leader.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

"Can you tell me how I can get some work, sir?" The Citizen (crustily)—"Yes; buy a bicycle and try to keep it clean." Ethel—"Who was that man?" Penelope—"That was Dobson, the great composer. He manufactures soothing syrup."—London Tit-Bits.

Hewett—"It's terrible to have people doubt your word." Jewett—"Especially when you know yourself that you are lying."—Standard. Teacher—"If you don't study your lessons you might as well not come to school at all." Pupil—"Me mother wouldn't let me do that."—Puck.

Wife (enthusiastically)—"How much do you think we took in at the bazaar?" Husband (quietly)—"How many, you mean."—Adams (Mass.) Freeman. She—"Did papa bring you to the Stock Exchange?" His Lordship—"Yes. It's very nice, to be sure, but I think I prefer Monte Carlo."—Puck.

Film—"I see where Boston is going to spend over \$1,000,000 on these pneumatic tubes." Flam—"That's a lot of money to blow in."—Standard. First Salesman—"What shall I do?" She says she don't want any cheap imitations." Second Salesman—"Show her an expensive imitation."—Puck.

Bobby—"If God sends babies round, why didn't mamma pick out a prettier one?" Paul—"Cause I s'pose she knew beggars shouldn't be choosers."—Judge. Jack—"How jaded and plain Miss Plankington has become lately." Tom—"Yes; that last railroad deal of her father's left him practically penniless."—Cleveland Leader.

A little boy was fishing, and, drawing in his line, found that the bait had been taken off without result; whereupon he burst into tears and said: "It's cheating."—Pittsburg Dispatch. Mrs. White—"Does your daughter speak French fluently now?" Mrs. Brown—"Well, she speaks something like it, and it doesn't sound at all like English, so perhaps it may be French."—Somerville Journal.

Mrs. Roberts—"You seem to be in a deep study, John." Mr. Roberts (whose daughter is taking her music lesson in adjoining room)—"I am, my dear. I was wondering if the inventor of the piano didn't a natural death."—Puck. Jinks—"I met Brobston as I entered—financially embarrassed, isn't he?" Filkins—"No; the embarrassment was all on my part. He wanted to borrow a thousand and I was at my wit's end thinking up a good excuse."—Puck.

Kate—"He seems extremely devoted. He talks of going to the Klondike for my sake." Beatrice—"Well, that would give you two chances. He might come back with a fortune or he might not come back at all."—Puck. "Did you know, my little boy," asked the solemn old gentleman, "that a bee can fly faster than a pigeon?" "I didn't know it before," said the little boy, "but I know he can set down a heap harder."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

"What we propose to do away with," said the reformer, "is the practice of allowing corporations to get valuable franchises for nothing." "I didn't know they ever did," said the civic statesman in astonishment. Indianapolis Journal. Client—"You say that when I buy on a margin, and the stock depreciates, I am to put up more margin. But in case it goes up, what happens in that case?" Broker—"That's a matter that needn't trouble you; it won't happen."—Boston Transcript.

The Tragedian (in the Klondike)—"Why is there so much sneezing in the audience?" The Super—"It's the dust, sir. An usher has just turned down two seats that were occupied last night by those Klondike miners."—Cleveland Plain Dealer. "Fly," he cried, "with me." The poster girl contemplated him calmly. "Well, I certainly won't run, I tell you those," she replied. In point of fact, the brand of ink of which she was constructed was ample guarantee of that.—Detroit Journal.

Mrs. Brown—So Mrs. Jones is nearly dead from insomnia? What is the cause of it?" Mrs. Smith (indignant)—"Why, her husband is the cause of it. He talks in his sleep, you know, and she has to lie awake all night to find out what he is saying, poor thing."—Judge. Family Friend—"I congratulate you, my dear sir, on the marriage of your daughter. I see you are gradually getting all the girls off your hands." Old Olivebranch—"Off my hands, yes! But the worst of it is, I have to keep their husbands on their feet!"—Melbourne Times.

Mr. Dunham—"I have called, sir, to tell you that your daughter, Miss Fannie, and I love each other very dearly. I want to ask you for her." Old Milllyuns—"Well, you'll have to wait awhile. There's no vacancy in the store now that I could put you into."—Cleveland Leader. "I suppose," said the young woman with the inquiring mind, "that most people who go in search of gold get it by working the creek and the stream." "Mostly, mine," she replied. During Peter's "though once in a while some fellow gets a lot of it by working a bluff."—Washington Star.